IN THIS ISSUE: WE VOTE OUT AMERICAN IDOL

MAD

IND

#462 FEBRUARY 2006 $3.99 CHEAP!

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...AND WE TEAR DOWN TV'S HOUSE

MAD

FEBRUARY 2006 NUMBER 462

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"Drawn Out Dramas" by Sergio Aragonés ..... Various Places Around the Magazine

MAIL TO THE CHIEF

When I saw Ken McClelland's congratulatory card for Monroe's 100th episode, I actually remembered that I was President of Monroe's Fan Club! Therefore, to celebrate this absolutely underwhelming accomplishment, I've decide, as President, to officially begin activities. I have set up an e-mail account — MonroeFanClub@hotmail.com for anyone who wants to join. You can offer suggestions on more Fan Club activities, like the First Annual Convention, contests to declare what those two things on Monroe's head actually are, debating whether Monroe is funnier when you read across the crack of the magazine, or one page at a time. We will also organize our Monroe Look-a-Like Contest! Join Jake Bird and me online and we can create one of the biggest group of losers on the Internet!

Darryl Gonzalez, Severn, MD

Mr. President — Thanks for the heads up on the "exciting" bit of news. We're sure that just like us, all the Monroe readers will take note of your e-mail address and be sure to immediately click off "block all messages from this sender!" Stay out of the theatre, Mr. President! —Ed.

Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™

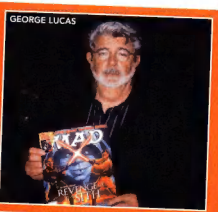
I've only been reading your magazine for a couple of months and I love it, so I've decided to write to the ***Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™***. My friends at school and I have a crush on Emma Watson (Hermione from *Harry Potter*) so my dumb wish is that Viktor Krum would die so Hermione would be in search of a 10-year-old muggle who lives in East Lansing, MI and goes to Denley School. I'd love her to pick me to marry and we'd live in a mansion in Bel Air.

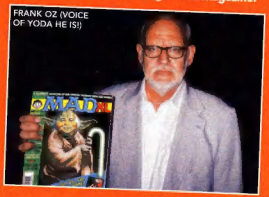
No Name Given, East Lansing, MI

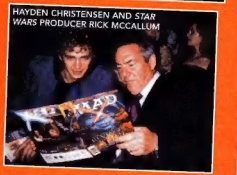
No Name — In an eerie coincidence, Miss Emma Watson herself stopped in to the MAD offices on the very same day we received your letter! It seems she's single and looking for our help to find a life partner. She had just come from a closing on her new mansion in Bel Air and her life was nearly complete — all she needed was a Midwesterner to settle down with. We were so excited to make a love connection…until we realized you didn't even give us your name! We'll gladly handle dumb wishes, but we can't handle dumb *readers*! Maybe you can try your luck with Professor McGonagall! See ya at Hogwarts! —Ed.

MAD CELEBRITY SNAPS SPECIAL STAR WARS EDITION

Not long ago at a fashion show not far away, some of the folks behind *Star Wars* were nice enough to pose with issues of MAD. They were all attending the event Dressing A Galaxy: The Costumes of *Star Wars*, held in New York City. Unfortunately, the photographs of Jabba the Hutt walking the runway in Daisy Duke shorts are unsuitable for reprinting in this magazine!


GEORGE LUCAS


FRANK OZ (VOICE OF YODA HE IS!)


HAYDEN CHRISTENSEN AND *STAR WARS* PRODUCER RICK MCCALLUM

MAD'S BIG QUESTION OF THE ISSUE

It's not too late to cast your vote for the Big Question (first posed in MAD #460)!

This month, we ask:

Which celebrity's iPod would like to see cranked up to a dangerously high volume?

Send in your pick to Amy "The Big Question" Vozeolas, c/o MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019.

FIGHT FOR YOUR WRITE

Hey all you guys at MAD. You helped me at a hard time. On Thursday, I got into a fight with this moronic idiot. I was just sticking up for my friend and I got after-school detention. I went home and read your magazine and it cheered me up.

Colby Peterson, Prescott Valley, AZ

In Colb Blood — Wait a second, we're confused. Let's recap your day, shall we? You got into a fight because apparently you don't like "moronic idiots." Then when you went home, you were cheered up by reading MAD — the magazine made *by and for* moronic idiots! So technically, according to your logic, you should kick your own butt! Thanks for writing and don't go too easy on yourself! —Ed.

NAME THAT TOON

Finally MAD has bothered to parody the most idiotic of channels — Adult Swim (MAD #458 "MAD's Fall TV Preview 2005"). As glad as I was to see *Family Guy* cavort in your issue along with *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*, or as Adult Swim calls it "ATHF." However, I was distressed to find that there was no *Inuyasha* spoof. Has MAD lost its edge? Are they unable to parody a show so riddled with plot holes that main villain Naraku's "power" is no matter how many times you blow the moron up, he keeps coming back? Hasn't this been covered in *DBZ* with Majin Buu? Please MAD, make an *Inuyasha* spoof! I look forward to the day when badly drawn *Inuyasha* figures appear in the well-worn copies of my MAD volumes!

Max Sher, Durham, NC

Sher and Sher Alike — What the hell are you talking about? What a moronic, idiotic letter, Colby P., you know what to do! —Ed.

Don't miss the FIRST ISSUE— on sale NOW! Or ISSUE #2— on sale FEB 21!

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HALLOWEEN HALL-O-FAME

Nothing thrills us more than seeing the "creativity" of our readers on display for the entire trick-or-treating world to see. Something tells us there were more tricks than treats!

In the issue with the hottest Halloween costumes (MAD #459) I chose the highly overpriced gas pump and guess what? I won the best costume in my town's Halloween parade! Thank you for this great idea. You could buy Regular, Premium or Ultra. Regular was $94.09, Premium was an arm and a leg and Ultra was your first born! Which one will you order?

JACKSON "GAS PUMP" GANEM

Jackson Ganem, Allendale, NJ

No, being from Iowa isn't the joke! My mom paints pumpkins (yeah, people pay her to paint vegetables) and our friends Tony and Richard struck a pose with us and our Alfred E. Neuman pumpkins. Please put us in your magazine, it will make us famous and easier to pick up chicks. Hey, what's cooler than guys posing with pumpkins their mommy painted? Uh, well, anyway, thanks!

Jimmy and Tommy Thelen, Sioux City, IA

(L-R) TOMMY THELAN, JIMMY THELEN, TONY TRAN AND RICHARD TRAN

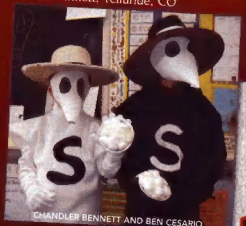
My youngest son is one of your biggest fans. He recently won a Spy Vs. Spy video game for his Xbox from one of your contests. I wanted to share our Halloween pictures with you for obvious reasons!

Cynthia Corcoran, Lake Wylie, SC

CAMERON CORCORAN IN HIS COSTUME

These costumes were the brainchild of my son and his friend. Both are seven years old!

Scott Bennett, Telluride, CO



CHANDLER BENNETT AND BEN CESARIO

For Halloween, our boys wanted to be Spy Vs. Spy. Unfortunately, we have three boys. So we made one of them gray! We hope you enjoy the pictures.

Michelle R., Heather P. and Judy C., Santa Clara, CA

AARON (BLACK SPY), DOMINIC (GRAY SPY) AND CHRISTIAN (WHITE SPY)

My son and his best friend were so impressed with the Spy Vs. Spy characters that they wanted to be them for Halloween. We were unable to find anything in the stores or costume companies, so my wife pulled out her sewing machine and took a hike all over the copyright trail. I hope you don't mind!

Terry Tincher, Address Withheld

This year our readers found an unprecedented number of ways to destroy their pumpkins! Here's a look at the gourd, the bad and the ugly!

ADAM RUTKOWSKI, RACINE, WI

JACOB LUNDGREN, BELLINGHAM, WA

DON SCHMID, MILWAUKEE, WI

BARRY FRIES, BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA

BRENT CLEVELAND, KENNER, LA

ROBIN SOLIS, ADDRESS WITHHELD

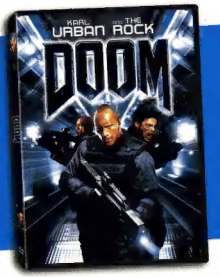
JOSH GUSTAFSON, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

GRANT JANIS, SHARON CENTER, OH

WIL MISIOREK, LYNNWOOD, WA

READER ALERT!

Everyone that had their letter published in this month's Letters Page will receive a copy of *Doom* on DVD, rated PG-13, courtesy of Universal Home Video. For those who couldn't be bothered to write us a letter, *Doom* will be on sale in stores February 7, 2006!



ANTIQUES FREAKSHOW WITH HANS BRICKFACE

One day while pretending I cared about being in snobby Waverly Home, the snooty "decorating" store, I came across this thing. It was 90% off so I knew I had to have it. No one in the store knew what it was, but the place did go out of business shortly after I purchased it. Any suggestions?

Carole Traster-Wilk, Little Neck, NY

Wilk on the Wild Side — We too are at a loss, but we're sure that resident antiques guru, Hans Brickface, can fill in all the blanks for you!

People write to me because, as an antiques expert, I have a wealth of knowledge and experience in this particular field, and my help is needed to guide novice collectors. However, you don't have to be an expert to determine that if you bought something at a chain store a few years ago for 90% off, it's probably not a priceless antique. That said, it appears as though you have been the victim of a churlish prank carried out by the staff of Waverly Home! From the looks of it, those rascals have sold you a sphere of their half-eaten, petrified marshmallows! So, there is no market value, but the joke they played at your expense is absolutely priceless! And please don't bother to write in when you buy a moldy Hot Pocket from the stock boy at Pier 1 Imports!

MAD BLURBS

Actual quotes that prove the world is going MAD!
This Month: ***Director John Woo***

In the new book *John Woo Interviews* edited by Robert K. Elder, John Woo talks about the bizarre link between MAD and his work. After reading this quote from the book, we can't believe that taking inspiration from our pages didn't kill his career immediately!

Q: ...How did you come up with the style to use Mexican standoffs? – Almost like "Infinite Ammo" flips and slides or when people fly across the room shooting at people in your films?

JW: I think the ideas came on the set because I never knew it's called a Mexican standoff. I just wanted to make a fun moment. [In] *The Killer* I tried to find a way to emphasize the friend and enemy [dichotomy] and I tried to create a fun moment. Maybe I have [read] too many comics and at that time my favorite comic was MAD magazine's Spy vs. Spy – the black and white bird that catch each other and actually they are pretty good friends. That gave me the idea to create the scene.

NEXT MONTH IN MAD #463 ON SALE FEBRUARY 21!

EVERYBODY HATES CHRIS **AND A DO-IT-YOURSELF GEORGE W. BUSH PRESS CONFERENCE!**

NEXT MONTH IN MAD KIDS #2 ON SALE FEBRUARY 21!

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH CARRIE UNDERWOOD, SPY VS. SPY JR. AND ANOTHER FAKE-OUT BACK COVER!

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Contributing Artists And Writers
the usual gang of idiots

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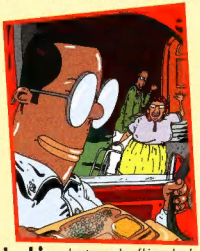
THE FUNDALINI

MELVIN & JENKINS' GUIDE TO CHARITY WORK



Jenkins donates one day of his weekend helping the local Meals on Wheels program deliver food to the elderly.

Melvin donates his time, too, but after weeks of complaint calls, they discover him holed up in his apartment surrounded by 6,000 single servings of lime Jell-O.

12 WAYS TO KNOW YOU'RE FLYING ON A BANKRUPT AIRLINE

- Your New York to Los Angeles flight terminates in Duluth and they bus you the rest of the way.
- They conveniently "forget" to return the loose change you place in the tray before going through the X-ray machine.
- If you need to use the restroom, you need four quarters.
- To increase the number of paying customers per flight they introduce a new seating class – Overhead Bin.
- During check-in, each passenger is given their boarding pass and a condom filled with a white powder to swallow.
- Costly airport runway fees have been foregone in favor of a barter arrangement permitting landings in Blockbuster video parking lots.
- Frequent flyer program has been scaled back so now you only get mileage credit for taxiing on the runway.
- Flight attendants are now offering lapdances.
- The computerized reservation system has been scrapped in favor of one of those "Rainman" type guys with a really good memory.
- On the way to your destination your flight flies low to dust crops.
- The barf bag reads, "If you throw up during the flight, please be considerate and leave room in the bag for the next passenger."
- Travel vouchers for delayed flights can only be redeemed for a different delayed flight.

THE FAST 5 PHRASES YOU'LL NEVER HEAR ON AN INFOMERCIAL

1. "People ask me if this product is for real, and I tell them no, of course not. Don't be stupid."
2. "You won't find it in stores, since they don't want to be implicated in all the lawsuits."
3. "If this product is not everything you thought it would be, simply lower your expectations to the point where it is!"
4. "Listen carefully, because we're only going to give out the phone number one time."
5. "Call within the next 15 minutes and get the exact same deal as those who call later."

KING KLUTZ

WELL, THAT'S GREAT, KONG. YOU GET ONE CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION, AND YOU BLOW IT.
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

PAGES

BITTERMAN

Cool! Spenzer's Gifts! Can we go in, Uncle Joe?
Hell no! That cesspool is no place for a girl your age.
These crappy novelty stores symbolize the decline of society. It's just a filthy display of cheap, perverted sex novelties and lame, 60s-inspired drug paraphernalia. Look around at the people in that place, Zoe – it's a congregation of Goth freaks and trailer trash, all stopping by to get a cheap laugh over phallic hand soap and battery-operated fart machines. Every fake preteen 'punk' can get a nipple ring while daddy ogles Carmen Electra posters. It's a den of illiteracy, immorality and ignorance.
50% OFF ALL STYLES
MINEM
Hey, they've got Christmas lights shaped like little beer bottles
Okay – five minutes.

If you're a keen teen lookin' for awesome advice, then just...

Ask Lynne Cheney

...wife of our beloved Vice President. For candid counseling on sensitive subjects, Mrs. Cheney always has your best interests at heart.

Dear Mrs. Cheney,

My parents recently got divorced and I'm feeling pretty bad. I still love them both. Sometimes I get the feeling it was my fault. My counselor at school says I shouldn't blame myself. Why do I blame myself? Why do I feel so bad?

— Puzzled

Dear Puzzled:

It's a sad and confusing time. And at other times, it probably makes you angry and you just want to break something or smash something. Or, yes, even shoot at something if you had your own automatic weapon. It's a perfectly natural teen reaction. But where in today's society can you fire an automatic weapon or blow up something because you feel like it? Is there a place where all that is perfectly legal? A place where you can really let your anger out and do some good at the same time? A place where you can blow up an entire building by pushing one button in a spanking new Bradley Fighting Vehicle? Mmmmm, I wonder... And don't for a minute believe those lies in the media that the Bradley doesn't have "decent" armor plating. The media is such a liar. It gets me furious! The nice man at your Army Recruiting office will have many ideas to help you through this difficult time.

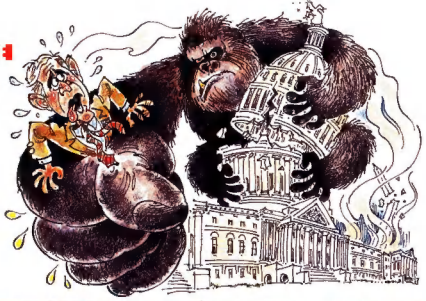
Remember! If you're an angst-ridden adolescent with a prickly problem, don't hesitate to ASK LYNNE CHENEY.

VEY TO GO!

"DORIS COULDN'T MAKE IT BUT SHE WANTED YOU TO SEE HER NEW SKIRT."

HOW THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION WOULD HANDLE AN ATTACK BY KING KONG

- Have Homeland Security advisory system raised to 'red' anytime a gorilla escapes from a zoo
- Let the President go on vacation and have the Humane Society take care of it
- Blame it on Al Qaeda and start wars in countries that contain jungles
- Amend the Patriot Act so the FBI can tap the phones of anyone who's bought bananas
- Cite Godzilla and Mothra as part of the "axis of evil"
- Accuse anyone who watches old *Magilla Gorilla* cartoons as giving aid and comfort to the enemy
- Give massive tax cuts to the rich



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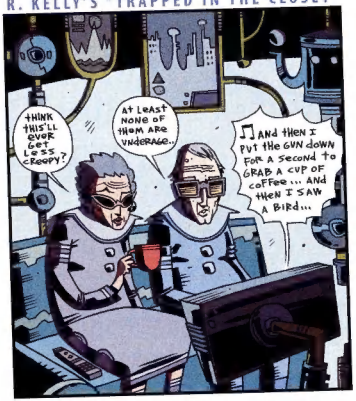
THE ANNE GEDDES 2006 DICK CHENEY CALENDAR

COMING IN 2046 • THE 12,465TH CHAPTER OF R. KELLY'S "TRAPPED IN THE CLOSET"


THINK THIS'LL EVER GET LESS CREEPY?
AT LEAST NONE OF THEM ARE UNDERAGE...
♫ AND THEN I PUT THE GUN DOWN FOR A SECOND TO GRAB A CUP OF COFFEE... AND THEN I SAW A BIRD...

GEORGE W. BUSH'S VALENTINE CANDY HEARTS

BE MY VALENTINE OR THE TERRORISTS WIN
YOU'RE EITHER WITH ME OR AGAINST ME
YOUR LOVE: BRING IT ON
YOU'VE BREACHED THE LEVEES OF MY HEART
DON'T MISUNDER-ESTIMATE MY LOVE
I'M GEORGE W. BUSH AND I APPROVE THIS VALENTINE MESSAGE
BE MY CRONY

FRIENDS OF FUNDALINI

Charles Atkins	Nate Fakes	Paul Gilligan	Kevin Pope
Paul Coker	Tamara Federici	Jeff Kruse	Jack Syracuse
Dick DeBartolo	Emily Flake	Jim Mahfood	Rick Tulka
Desmond Devlin	Garth Gerhart	Brian McConnachie	P.C. Vey

After several seasons as *American Idol* judges, Randy, Paula and Simon have run out of things to say. They just spout off the same lines over and over, like a mynah bird or the cast of *Saturday Night Live*. Hey guys, if we wanted useless feedback, we'd go to a Slipknot concert! This ghastly trio needs to add a little variety to their responses. We recommend...

MAD'S DO-IT-YOURSELF Amer

"Yo, yo, yo! What's [up, dawg / on second / new, Pussycat, whoa-whoa-whoa-oh / for lunch / in your wallet] ?

I gotta give ya [props / an atomic wedgie / the finger / a flu shot / the name of a good therapist], because you definitely did [your thing / a porno or two / wonders for my career / drugs / Paula]. You were a little [pitchy / gassy / light in the loafers / teapot, short and stout / bit drunk last night], so it didn't blow [me away / out my stomach staples / more than a category 2 storm / the whistle on our fixed voting / the cover of any CIA operatives]."

ARTIST: DREW FRIEDMAN
WRITER: DARREN JOHNSON

ican Idol JUDGES' CRITIQUES

"You looked
- a star
- Nick Nolte's mugshot
- you were constipated
- me, when I still had a legitimate career
- Randy in drag

like up there.

You had me
- in tears at "Hello"
- back on the sauce
- wetting my pants
- hoping this is a dream sequence from *Lost*

.

Maybe not your best choice
- song
- medical coverage
- wireless plans
- mouthwash
- appetizers

of , but you made
- it your own
- up the lyrics
- William Hung sound like Josh Groban
- this trip for nothing
- me nauseous

.

Great
- job
- Caesar's ghost
- ass
- balls of fire
- news: I just saved a ton of money on my car insurance

!"

"I can sum up that
- absolutely dreadful
- check, please
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Got Milk?
- Justin Guarini

performance in two words: .

That was like listening to
- drunken karaoke
- a Bill Maher monologue
- Terrell Owen's apology
- a "Jesus, Take the Wheel" ringtone
- "Seacrest, out!" for the thousandth time
- at a hillbilly wedding
- translated into Pig Latin
- played through a Kazoo
- over an airport PA
- mashed-up with 50 Cent

. I could release that tomorrow
- have a hit record
- you won't see a dime
- Diddy will have sampled it before noon
- use it to torture Gitmo detainees
- let Ashlee Simpson lip-synch to it

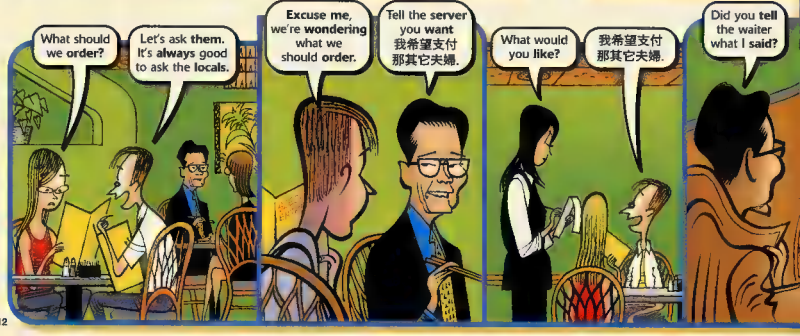
and . In my opinion,
- make it big on thesmokinggun.com
- pregnant with Jude Law's baby
- working the fryer at McDonald's
- on welfare

we're going to see you ."

EATS MEETS JEST DEPT.

The MAD WORLD of...

Call now. For just 47 cents a day, you can feed this child.
7:37
884-555-1212
Hello, would you like to sponsor a child?
No, I want to sign up my two kids!


What should we order?
Let's ask them. It's always good to ask the locals.
Excuse me, we're wondering what we should order.
Tell the server you want 我希望支付 那其它夫婦.
What would you like?
我希望支付 那其它夫婦.
Did you tell the waiter what I said?

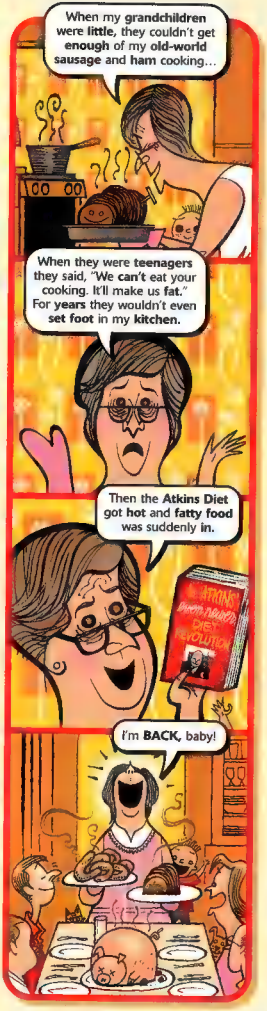
You just ate! You can't swim for an hour or you'll get cramps.
My teacher told me that's a myth that's been disproved.
Listen, just because it's not true doesn't make it all right!

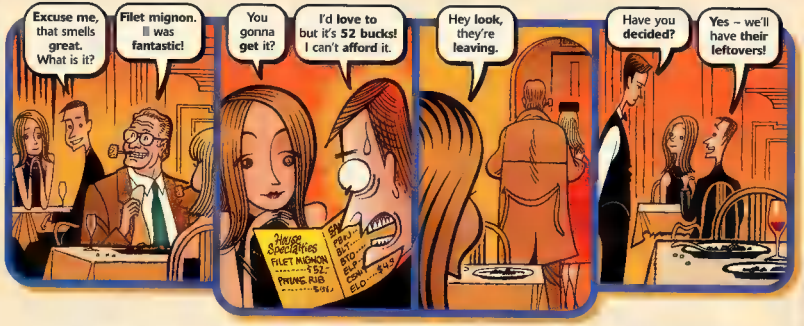
FOOD

ARTIST: MARC HEMPEL

WRITER: STAN SINBERG

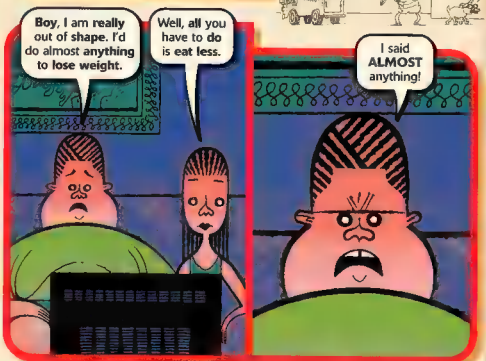
I did, thank you. Good night.
Here you go. I'll take that when you're ready.
What? This is a mistake! We didn't order yet!
But you just told me, "I'd like to pay for that other couple."


When my grandchildren were little, they couldn't get enough of my old-world sausage and ham cooking...
When they were teenagers they said, "We can't eat your cooking. It'll make us fat." For years they wouldn't even set foot in my kitchen.
Then the Atkins Diet got hot and fatty food was suddenly in.
ATKINS' NEW CARB REVOLUTION
I'm BACK, baby!


Excuse me, that smells great. What is it?
Filet mignon. It was fantastic!
You gonna get it?
I'd love to but it's 52 bucks! I can't afford it.
House Specialties
FILET MIGNON $52
PRIME RIB $31
Hey look, they're leaving.
Have you decided?
Yes – we'll have their leftovers!

What would you like on your pizza? Sausage? Mushrooms?
The works!
What would you like on your sundae? Whipped cream? Nuts?
The works!
What would you like for your stomach? Antacid? Alka-Seltzer?
The works!

Today at school, the kids made fun of my eating disorder.
Your WHAT? You don't have an eating disorder. You eat three balanced, nutritious meals a day.
At my school, that IS an eating disorder!


Boy, I am really out of shape. I'd do almost anything to lose weight.
Well, all you have to do is eat less.
I said ALMOST anything!

CAN'T PICK JUST ONE? NOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO!

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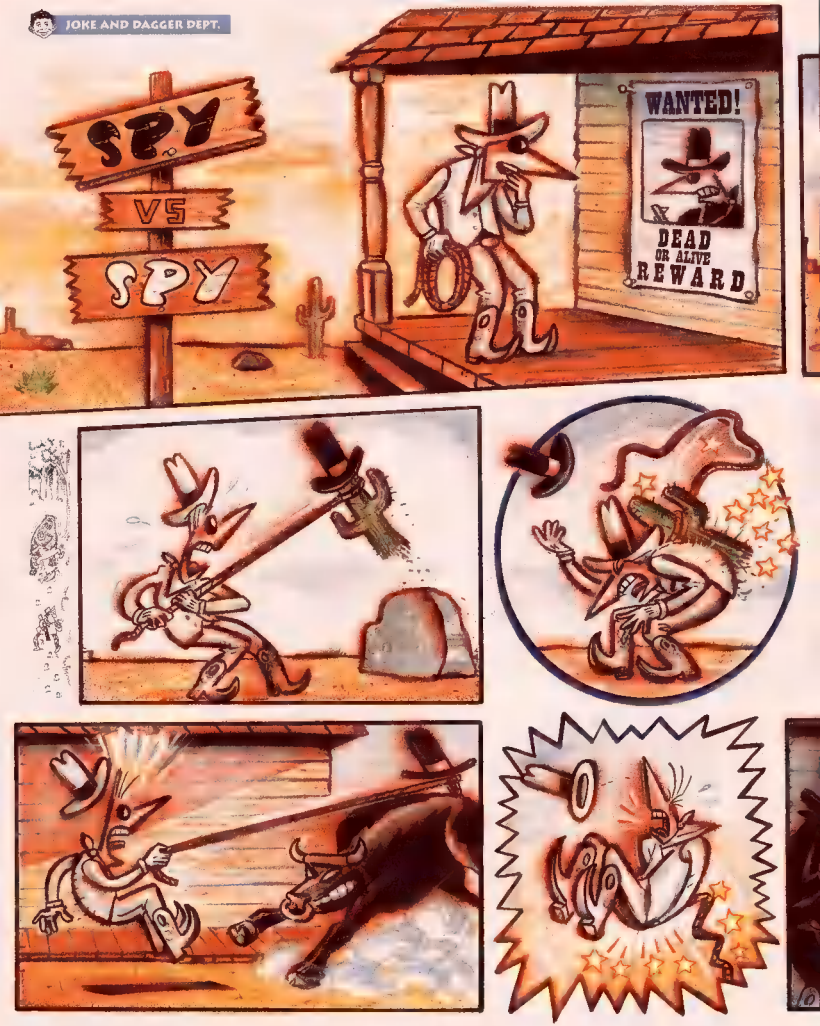
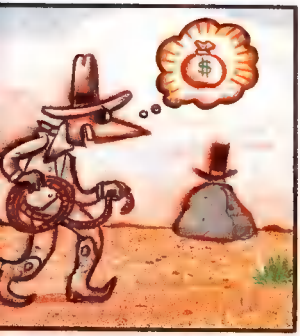

SPY
VS
SPY
WANTED!
DEAD
OR ALIVE
REWARD



ARTIST AND WRITER: PETER KUPER

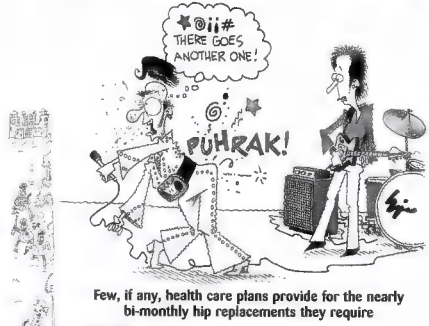
KUPER

*In the great circle of life, as one thing dies, another is born to take its place. And so it was with the great rock and roller Elvis Presley. Almost immediately after his death, a bevy of Elvis impersonators were born to fill our primal need to watch a sweaty, gyrating guy in a sequined jumpsuit. Sadly, many of these impersonators are now a bit past their prime and are suffering the slings and arrows that frequently accompany old age. Many of these hardworking performers have simply been forgotten, cast off to the dustbin of showbiz. But **you'll** remember, when MAD exposes...*

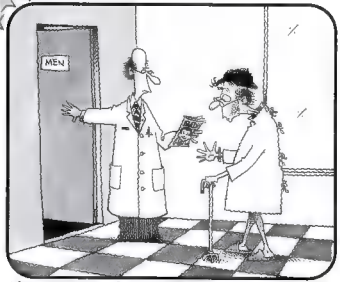
JOHN CALDWELL'S

HEARTBREAKING PROBLEMS OF AGING ELVIS IMPERSONATORS

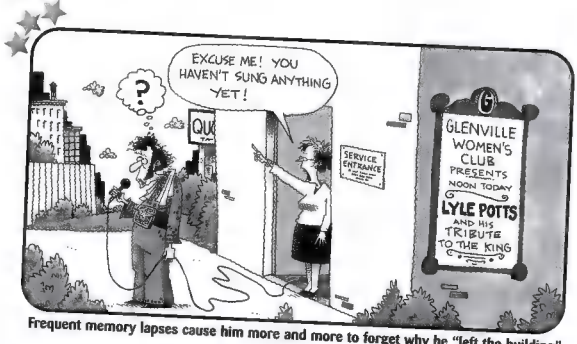
Elvis' trademark motto "T.C.B." has, sadly, become just another everyday nursing home staff code word



Few, if any, health care plans provide for the nearly bi-monthly hip replacements they require



There are currently no provisions to allow aging Elvis impersonators to die with dignity, on their own toilet


EXCUSE ME! YOU HAVEN'T SUNG ANYTHING YET!
?
SERVICE ENTRANCE
GLENVILLE WOMEN'S CLUB PRESENTS NOON TODAY
LYLE POTTS AND HIS TRIBUTE TO THE KING

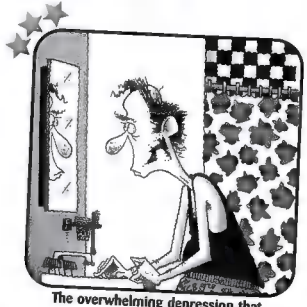
Frequent memory lapses cause him more and more to forget why he "left the building"

The classic Elvis lip curl now causes previously unforeseen problems

ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT? ARE YOUR PORK CHOPS TOO TIGHT? COULD YOU SEE WHAT'S ON CHANNEL NINE? TELL ME DEAR, WHEN'S THE BUS SHOW UP HERE... ZZZBPHH...WHIST...ZZZZ....

A society conditioned to choose between "Skinny Elvis" and "Fat Elvis" ■ simply unprepared to add "Dementia-Addled Elvis" to the mix

There is woefully inadequate funding to provide grilled peanut butter, banana and bacon sandwiches in the Meals on Wheels program



The overwhelming depression that sometimes accompanies Male Pattern Sideburn Baldness

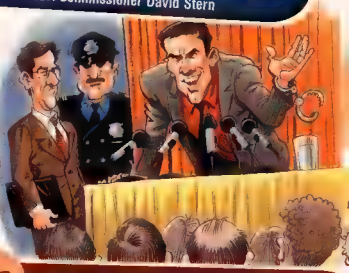
The lines of the classic Elvis jumpsuit simply cannot stand up to the rigors of a fully-loaded, heavy-duty Depends

THE GOOD POINTS AND BAD POINTS

Recently, the NBA enstated a dress code requiring all players to "wear Business Casual attire whenever they are engaged in team or league business." What's next? Are they going to have the players wear some kind of uniform? (Wait...nevermind.) As we say goodbye to velour jump suits, sunglasses and bling, and wave a big hello to khakis, turtlenecks and blazers, we present...

BAD POINT
Oh my god, David!
I love you, Davey!
Even dressed in 3-piece suits, players still won't exude the same raw sexual energy as NBA Commissioner David Stern

BAD POINT
Man, now I gotta get this *&^%Z dry cleaned!
Now, when fans throw soda and popcorn at the players, the stains are much more expensive to remove



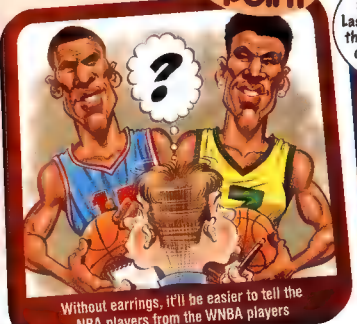
ARTIST: TOM RICHMOND WRITERS: JEFF KRUSE AND NATE FAKES

OF THE new NBA DRESS CODE

GOOD POINT

Players now 50% less likely to be passed up by cab drivers

GOOD POINT



Without earrings, it'll be easier to tell the NBA players from the WNBA players

BAD POINT

Oh, oh! It's Steven Marbury! Last time I saw pants that long, they were on a guy wearing stilts!
My name's Stephon. And aren't you dead yet?

It's only a matter of time before the Pre-Game show is replaced by "red carpet" coverage with Joan and Melissa Rivers.

BAD POINT

Press conferences delayed for hours as players make sure their trouser pleats are *juuuuuust* right

BAD POINT

Untucking the dress shirt, undoing a tie, removing the sportscoat — all take away from time that could be spent impregnating groupies

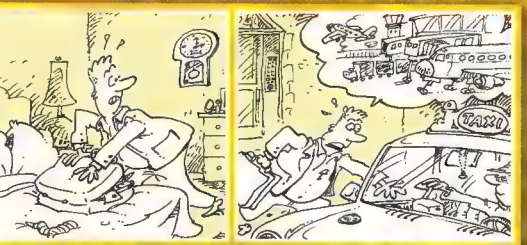
GOOD POINT

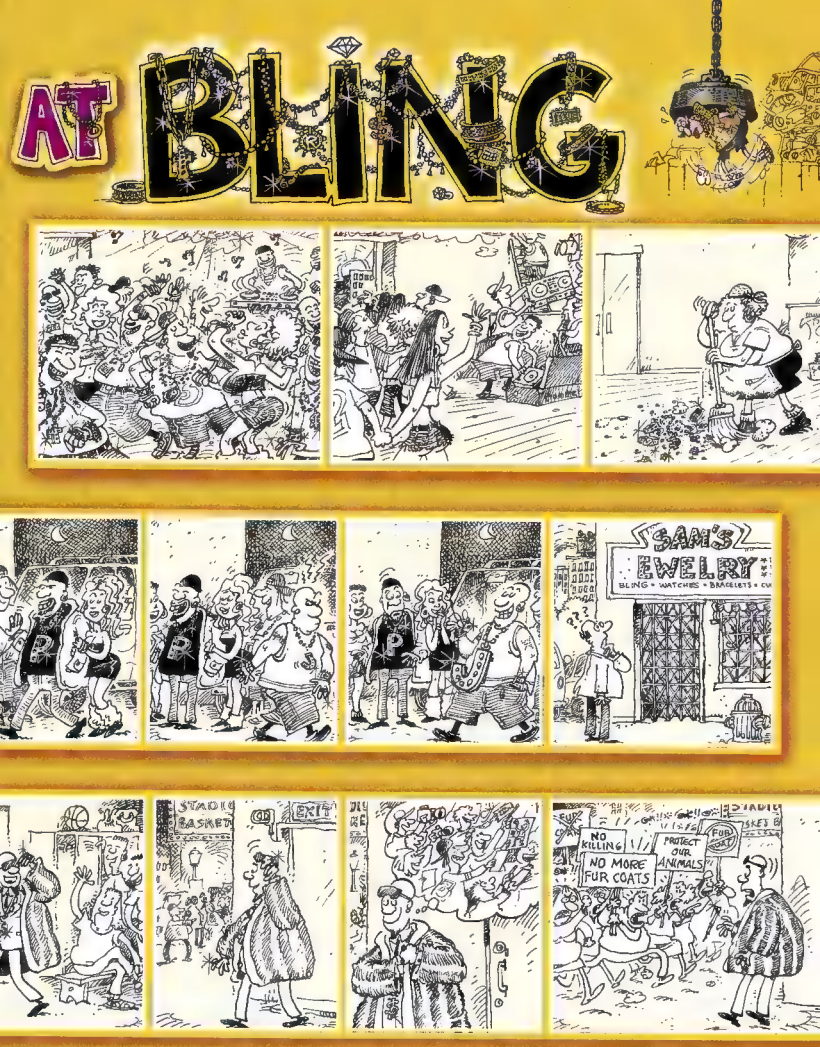
The new policy will mean classier hand-me-downs for the stars' illegitimate children

BAD POINT

The launch of LeBron James' new shoe is just not as cool when it's a Bruno Magli wingtip

Sergio Aragonés presents A MAD Look

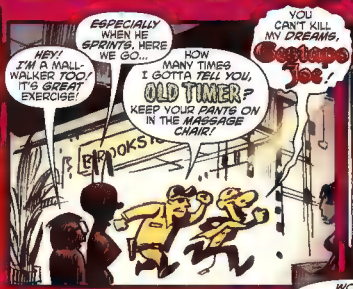


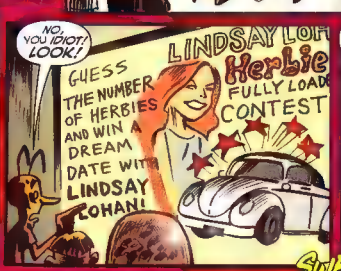

AT BLING
SAM'S
JEWELRY
BLING • WATCHES • BRACELETS
EXIT
NO KILLING
NO MORE FUR COATS
PROTECT OUR ANIMALS
FUR COAT

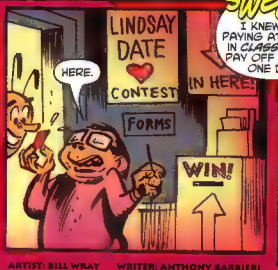
A..A..A..
CHOO!
GESUNDHEIT!

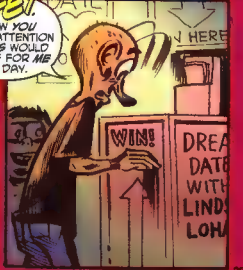
It'll be a blind date — [illegible] gouges [illegible]. It's...

MONROE and... The DREAM DATE

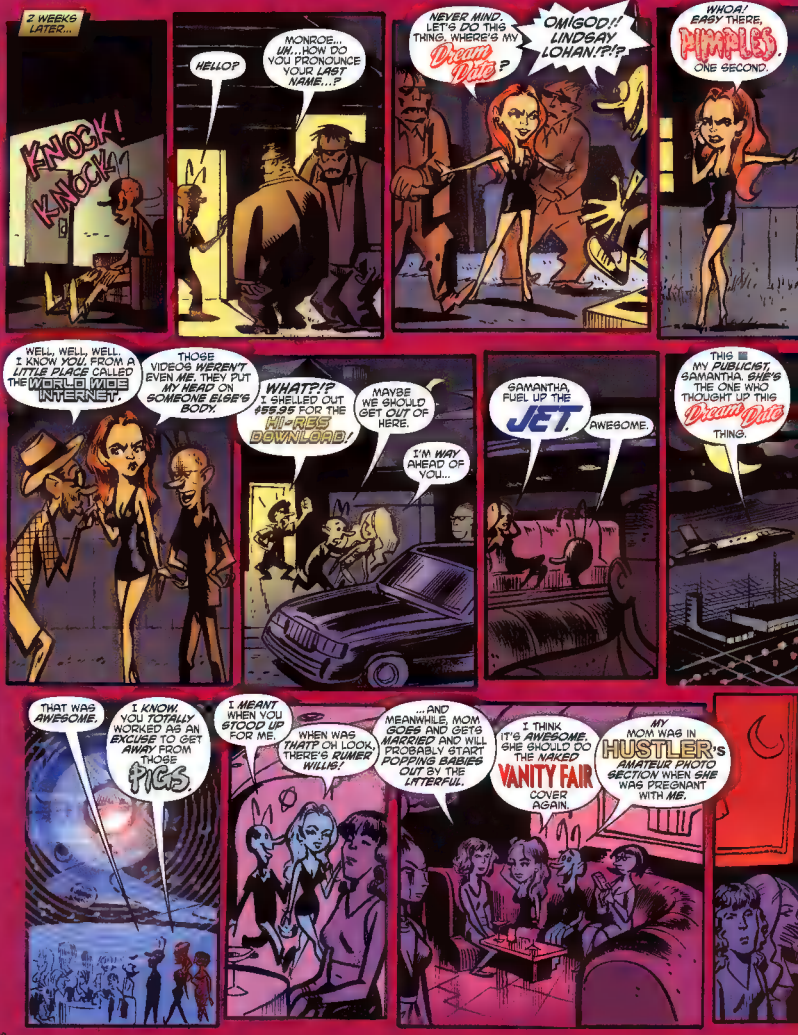

HEY! I'M A MALL-WALKER TOO! IT'S GREAT EXERCISE!
ESPECIALLY WHEN HE SPRINTS. HERE WE GO...
HOW MANY TIMES I GOTTA TELL YOU, OLD TIMER? KEEP YOUR PANTS ON IN THE MASSAGE CHAIR!
YOU CAN'T KILL MY DREAMS, Gestapo Joe!

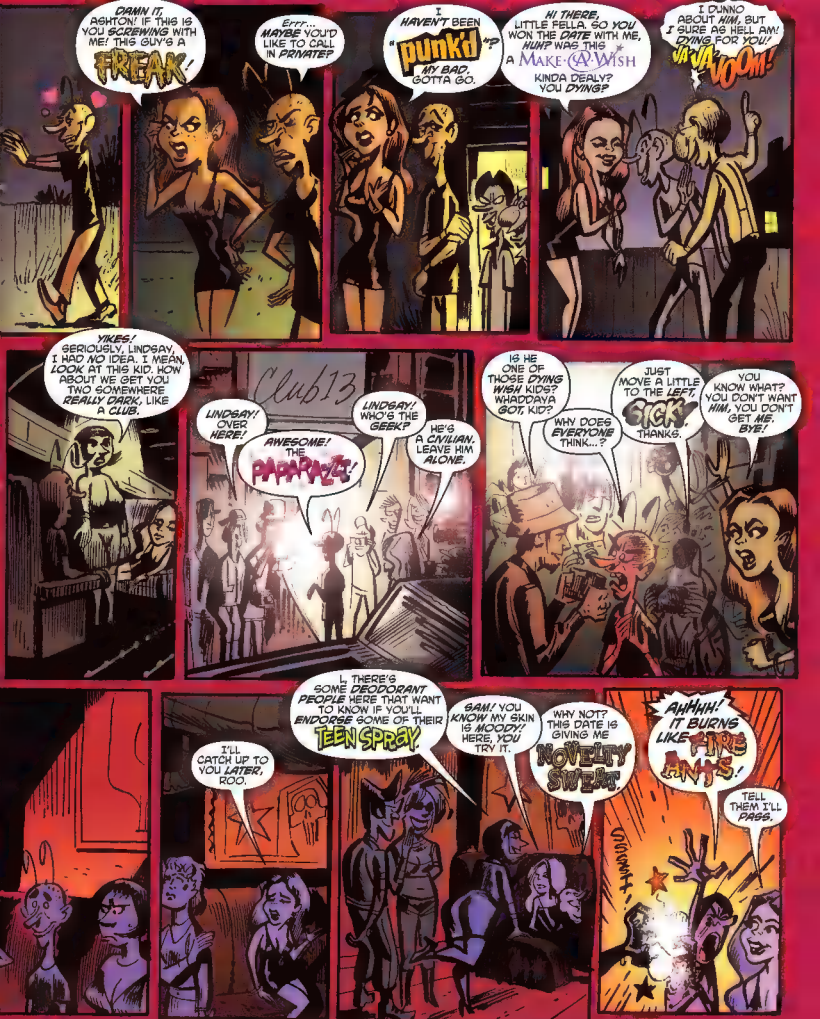

NO, YOU IDIOT! LOOK!
GUESS THE NUMBER OF HERBIES AND WIN A DREAM DATE WITH LINDSAY LOHAN!
LINDSAY LOHAN
Herbie FULLY LOADED
CONTEST





ARTIST: BILL WRAY WRITER: ANTHONY BARBIERI

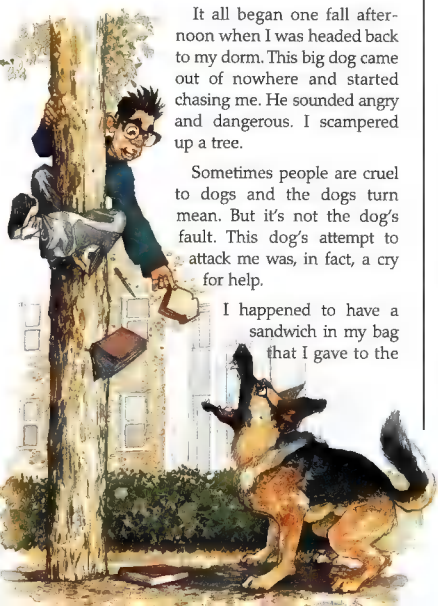

2 WEEKS LATER...
KNOCK! KNOCK!
HELLO?
MONROE... UH... HOW DO YOU PRONOUNCE YOUR LAST NAME...?
NEVER MIND. LET'S DO THIS THING. WHERE'S MY Dream Date?
OMIGOD!! LINDSAY LOHAN!?!?
WHOA! EASY THERE, PIMPLELESS. ONE SECOND.
WELL, WELL, WELL. I KNOW YOU. FROM A LITTLE PLACE CALLED THE WORLD WIDE INTERNET.
THOSE VIDEOS WEREN'T EVEN ME. THEY PUT MY HEAD ON SOMEONE ELSE'S BODY.
WHAT!? I SHELLED OUT $59.95 FOR THE HI-RES DOWNLOAD!
MAYBE WE SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE.
I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU...
SAMANTHA. FUEL UP THE JET.
AWESOME.
THIS IS MY PUBLICIST, SAMANTHA. SHE'S THE ONE WHO THOUGHT UP THIS Dream Date THING.
THAT WAS AWESOME.
I KNOW. YOU TOTALLY WORKED AS AN EXCUSE TO GET AWAY FROM THOSE PIGS.
I MEANT WHEN YOU STOOD UP FOR ME.
WHEN WAS THAT? OH LOOK, THERE'S RUMER WILLIS!
... AND MEANWHILE, MOM GOES AND GETS MARRIED AND WILL PROBABLY START POPPING BABIES OUT BY THE LITTERFUL.
I THINK IT'S AWESOME. SHE SHOULD DO THE NAKED VANITY FAIR COVER AGAIN.
MY MOM WAS IN HUSTLER'S AMATEUR PHOTO SECTION WHEN SHE WAS PREGNANT WITH ME.


DAMN IT, ASHTON! IF THIS IS YOU SCREWING WITH ME! THIS GUY'S A FREAK!
Eeee... MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO CALL IN PRIVATE?
I HAVEN'T BEEN "punk'd"? MY BAD, GOTTA GO.
HI THERE, LITTLE FELLA. SO YOU WON THE DATE WITH ME, HUH? WAS THIS A MAKE-A-WISH KINDA DEAL? YOU DYING?
I DUNNO ABOUT HIM, BUT I SURE AS HELL AM! DYING FOR YOU!! VOOM!
YIKES! SERIOUSLY, LINDSAY, I HAD NO IDEA. I MEAN, LOOK AT THIS KID. HOW ABOUT WE GET YOU TWO SOMEWHERE REALLY DARK, LIKE A CLUB.
Club 13
LINDSAY! OVER HERE!
AWESOME! THE PAPARAZZI!
LINDSAY! WHO'S THE GEEK?
HE'S A CIVILIAN. LEAVE HIM ALONE.
IS HE ONE OF THOSE DYING WISH KIDS? WHADDAYA GOT, KID?
WHY DOES EVERYONE THINK...?
JUST MOVE A LITTLE TO THE LEFT, SICK, THANKS.
YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU DON'T WANT HIM, YOU DON'T GET ME. BYE!
I'LL CATCH UP TO YOU LATER, ROD.
I, THERE'S SOME DEODORANT PEOPLE HERE THAT WANT TO KNOW IF YOU'LL ENDORSE SOME OF THEIR TEEN SPRAY.
SAM! YOU KNOW MY SKIN IS MOODY! HERE, YOU TRY IT.
WAY NOT? THIS DATE IS GIVING ME NOVELTY SWEAT
AHHHH! IT BURNS LIKE FIRE ANTS!
TELL THEM I'LL PASS.
CHOOM!

THAT WAS REALLY NICE OF YOU, MONROE. MOST OF THE GUYS I DATE WOULD NEVER DO THAT FOR ME.
REALLY? MAN, LINDSAY, I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU. I'D TOTALLY PROTECT YOU FROM BURNING UNDERARM SPRAY OR MY DAD OR ANYTHING — EVEN THAT RAT OVER THERE...
AARGH! A RAT!! I'LL SAVE YOU, LINDSAY LOHAN!
MONROE! NO! THAT ISN'T A RAT! IT'S PARIS HILTON'S CHIHUAHUA, TINKERBELL!
YIPE!
OOOOF!
LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE
BARK-GRR!!
KRUNCH!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE DOG THING. SHE'S GOT LIKE TEN LAPDOGS.
MAKE THAT NINE, NOW THAT SHE'S DUMPED HER FIANCÉ.
NICE ONE! YOU KNOW, MONROE, WHEN I FIRST SAW YOUR FACE I WAS TERRIFIED BUT I ACTUALLY HAD A REALLY GOOD TIME TONIGHT.
Um... THANKS?
IT'S JUST SO REFRESHING TO BE WITH A REAL GUY. I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING YOU COULD SAY THAT WOULD SCREW IT UP. SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NOW?
I'M KINDA HUNGRY AND YOU SURE LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE A MEAL. WANNA GET SOMETHING TO EAT?
HOW DARE YOU!?
WHAT? PEOPLE HAVE TO EAT SOMETIME!
SAYS YOU, PATTY! I HAVE TO KEEP THIS WAIF-LIKE FIGURE!!!
SPLISH!
NOW THAT'S A GREAT PICTURE!
A WEEK LATER...
... AND MY ARMPITS ARE STILL BURNING.
PROBE THE STARS
LINDSAY LOHAN FIGHTS OFF CREEPY STALKER

The Dog That Played Football for Notre Dame

It's the dream of a lot of boys to grow up and play football for Notre Dame. But could you say the same thing about a dog? You could if its name was Mr. Muffles. He was an NCAA legend that left his mark on that university located at South Bend, Indiana.



It all began one fall afternoon when I was headed back to my dorm. This big dog came out of nowhere and started chasing me. He sounded angry and dangerous. I scampered up a tree.

Sometimes people are cruel to dogs and the dogs turn mean. But it's not the dog's fault. This dog's attempt to attack me was, in fact, a cry for help.

I happened to have a sandwich in my bag that I gave to the dog. While he ate, I climbed down, thinking, "What can I do for this dog?"

I decided to name him Mr. Muffles, a gentle name, and I took him back to live in my dorm room.

My roommate was the All-American wide receiver, Walter Washington. He was as strong as he was big and fast.

I wasn't there when Walter and Mr. Muffles first met. But something special must've happened between them — a magic bond of some kind.

They'd love to roughhouse. Someone who didn't know better might think they were trying to hurt each other. Like the time Walter hit Mr. Muffles over the head with a wrench while the dog was taking a nap. Then, Mr. Muffles bit Walter so deep it exposed his thighbone. But I knew they were only playing.

One time, Walter hog-tied Mr. Muffles and threw him in the closet. This was probably a test to see how fast Mr. Muffles could free himself. They both loved testing each other, although Walter never really explained why. For some reason, a few weeks earlier he stopped talking to me altogether.

It didn't take Mr. Muffles long to chew through that rope and break down the closet door. Walter had been leaning out a window talking to a teammate below. Mr.

Muffles ran at Walter, no doubt to show off how quickly he had freed himself, but this time their horseplay went too far, and he accidentally pushed Walter out of our third-story window.

Walter's fall to the cement court below broke his collarbone, three ribs and his wrist.

Mr. Muffles tried sneaking into the infirmary that night, most likely to show Walter how sorry he was, but the staff prevented it.

Walter's recovery went better than expected. His body was healing nicely and he was ready to play some football. There was only one game left in the season and it was against their archrivals, the University of Southern California.

Little time remained in that game, and Notre Dame was trailing when the coach decided to send in Walter.

They threw a pass to Walter, who made a terrific catch, but he was hit hard by three USC defenders. He punctured a lung and re-broke two of his three previously-broken ribs.

They carefully put him on the gurney, strapped him in and pushed him over to the sidelines, where they waited for the ambulance.

Then, out of nowhere, came Mr. Muffles. Perhaps he sensed there was a broken play about to happen. He ran as fast as he could to the gurney and pushed Walter back out onto the field near the end-zone just as the ball landed right in Walter's lap!

Before the referee could call this strange play, the USC defenders pounced on Walter, collapsing the gurney and breaking three more of his ribs. But the momentum of the USC players pushed the collapsed gurney across the goal line. "Touchdown! Notre Dame!" yelled the referee.

The hometown fans couldn't contain their jubilation! If it weren't for that amazing, quick thinking, football-loving dog, Notre Dame would have lost by the totally lopsided score of 54 to 3 instead of the far more respectable 54 to 9.

Hail, hail to you, Mr. Muffles — the dog that played football for Notre Dame and "won" everyone's love.

—Tom White, age 37

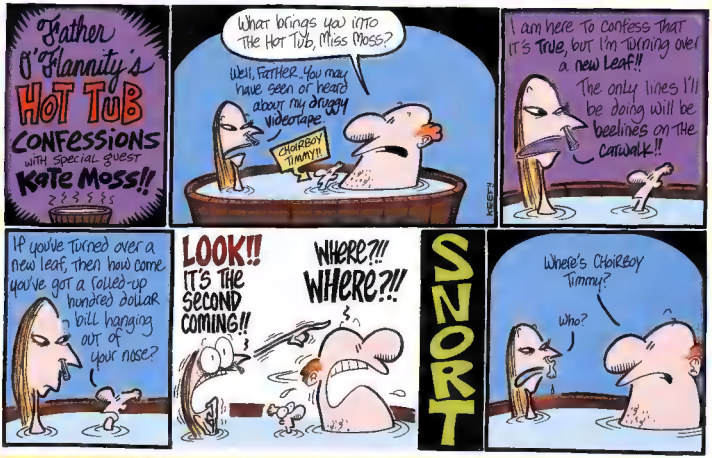
ARTIST: LEONARDO RODRIGUEZ WRITER: BRIAN McCONNACHIE

THE STRIP CLUB

MIDDLE SCHOOL Nostradamus

Well, it looks like everyone failed yesterday's pop quiz...except Nostradamus.
I'm gonna kick your ass one of these days, Nostradamus.
I know. Thursday.
What?
Your second wife will have a miscarriage.

SIMON RICH/A.E. PERKER


Father O'Flannity's HOT TUB CONFESSIONS WITH SPECIAL GUEST KATE MOSS!!
What brings you into The Hot Tub, Miss Moss?
Well, Father, you may have seen or heard about my druggy videotape with CHOIRBOY TIMMY!!
I am here to confess that it's true, but I'm turning over a new leaf!! The only lines I'll be doing will be beelines on the catwalk!!
If you've turned over a new leaf, then how come you've got a rolled-up hundred dollar bill hanging out of your nose?
LOOK!! IT'S THE SECOND COMING!!
WHERE?!! WHERE?!!
SNORT
Where's Choirboy Timmy?
Who?

KEITH KNIGHT

RICH MOYER

YOUR ONLY DEFENSE AGAINST THE ZEITGEIST!

THE HERO SANTON!

"HI!"

"POKER 'POCALYPSE!"

Excited over USA Network's "Matlock" marathon, Santon is stunned to find it pre-empted by a new POKER show!

Affleck playing POKER NEXT!

Santon is shaken. The idea of watching celebrities play poker instead of playing is deeply disturbing. Communal games like poker are meant to keep society INTERACTING with each other. TELEVISED CELEBRITY POKER would rip us apart!

Dude, play poker with YOUR FRIENDS, don't watch it on TV! STOP IT!!!

Shhhhushhhh!! Ben Affleck and Skeet Ulrich ARE my friends, dude!

As Santon tries to convince folks that they aren't actually playing poker with Affleck, EVIL TV EXECUTIVES try to up the ante!!!

How 'bout "CELEBRITY COOKOUT!"? Why have your own cookout, when you can watch a COOKOUT on TV that has CELEBRITIES???!

GENIUS! BRILLIANT!

With televised poker and televised cookouts threatening to END ALL SOCIAL INTERACTION, Santon must beat 'em at their OWN GAME!

Dude, why have YOUR OWN TV development meeting when you can watch a TV development meeting on TV that has CELEBRITIES?!

GENIUS!

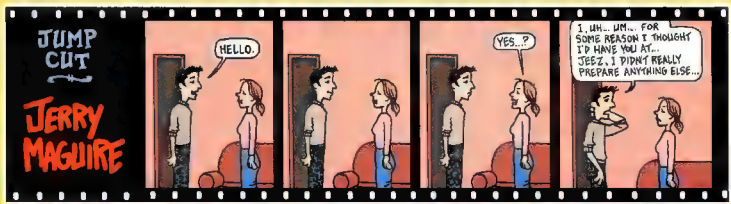
The evil TV executive is quickly mesmerized, and NEVER develops any shows again!

Unfortunately, now the celebrities on the TV development TV show start developing their own!

Genius idea, Ben!

Well, I kind of won!

DON ASMUSSEN



PAUL GILLIGAN

THE ONE SUPERHERO WHO SIMPLY CANNOT BE BEATEN...*

MEET

FANTABULAMAN

*INCREDIBLY, PEOPLE STILL TRY, THOUGH.

EARTH'S WOULD-BE SUPERVILLAINS, COWED AND DETERRED BY FANTABULAMAN'S FAMED UNDEFEATABILITY, HAVE STOPPED EVEN *TRYING* TO CARRY OUT ANY NEFARIOUS SCHEMES.

@*#☕!! I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY POURED FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE POT!

AS PIPED-IN IMAGES FROM THE *HUBBLE TELESCOPE* ATTEST, HOWEVER, *EXTRATERRESTRIALS* HAVEN'T GOTTEN THE MESSAGE!

ALIENS! INVADING MY PLANET OF CHOICE!!

FANTABULAMAN SPRINGS INTO ACTION! APPLYING HIS POWER OF *MENTAL TELEPORTATION*, HE MATERIALIZES AT THE CONTROLS OF THE LEAD ALIEN SHIP!

...SO I TELL HER TO WRING IT OUT *AFTER* SHE—WHAT? WHO?

CALL ME THE GUY WHO'S FLYING YOUR SHIP—INTO OUR *SUN*!

THE ALIEN FLEET, LOCKED INTO AUTOPILOT UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MOTHER SHIP, FOLLOWS IT TO FIERY 4,500,000°F DOOM!

DAMN!

OUCH!

"JOIN THE MILITARY," MOM SAID. "IT'S A STEADY JOB." SHE SAID. THANKS, MOM.

HOT DAMN!

FANTABULAMAN EFFORTLESSLY TRANSPORTS BACK TO A BLISSFULLY UNGRATEFUL EARTH 1/100 TH OF A SECOND BEFORE THE MOTHER SHIP HITS THE SUN.

NOW, TO GET BACK TO THAT SCREENPLAY...

CRAK

NEXT: BRING IN THE CLONES!

TED RALL

AMERICAN IDOL ALSO RANS: Where Are They Now?

For every Kelly, Ruben, and the other two who gained fame and/or fortune on *American Idol*, there are countless thousands who did not.

DeTangelo Grendel

SEASON 3, HONOLULU AUDITION
UNIQUE GIMMICK: Lip synching to Ashlee Simpson albums, which he unsuccessfully claimed was "an ironic commentary on the state of modern music."
NAIL IN HIM COFFIN: The large "Death to Simon" tattoo on his exposed chest
POST-AUDITION QUOTE: "Anybody got $1.25 for the bus ride home?"
PAULA'S COMMENT: "Good God, that sucked...in a nice, uplifting way."
FAVORITE MUSICAL MEMENTO: A temporary restraining order signed by Kelly Clarkson herself
VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED: Scat yodeling isn't as popular as it used to be

Slash Bamford

SEASON 4, SAN FRANCISCO AUDITION
UNIQUE GIMMICK: Openly boasted about being 75 pounds heavier than Ruben Studdard
DOWNFALL: Insisted on performing love songs he wrote himself, all of which contain the words "thumbscrew," "retaliate" and "scabies"
PAULA'S OPINION: "That was just so wonderful. I loved it."
POST-AUDITION QUOTE: "Can I have my Bowie knife back now?"
WHERE IS HE NOW?: Personal assistant to UK Ambassador John Bolton
VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED: Ingesting helium before each number hurts more than it helps

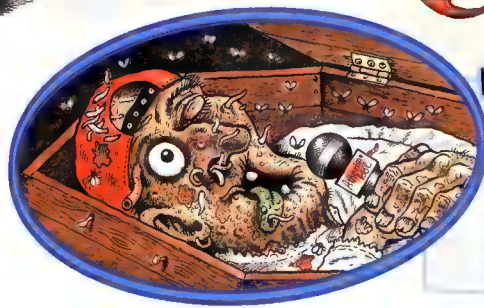
ARTIST: TOM BUNK
WRITER: JEFF KRUSE

Izzy Kavelnik

SEASON 1, LOS ANGELES AUDITION
CLAIM TO FAME: Considered "The Weird Al Yankovic of 18th Century German Operas."
DOWNFALL: Spent 10 minutes arguing the virtues of Roe Vs. Wade, before discovering they weren't those kinds of judges
FUN FACT: He's technically not part of a duo, since his conjoined twin doesn't sing
RANDY'S OPINION: "As a Grammy winner myself, let me just say that there are so many categories that everyone in this industry eventually wins one."
WHERE IS HE NOW?: Lead triangle player for The Bangshees, a William Hung tribute band
VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED: Just about anyone can do Ryan Seacrest's job

SEASON 3, ATLANTA AUDITION
SIGNATURE TUNE: "Whoops, I Did It Once More"
COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE: 38DD bra size
POST-AUDITION QUOTE: "Some people wait a lifetime for a moment like this...hey, that's a good line. Let me write that down."
SIMON SAYS: "Absolutely, without doubt, the most unoriginal, derivative act we've ever seen."
WHERE IS SHE NOW?: About to sign an 8-figure recording deal
VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED: None

Britannia Spikes



Herb Gherkin

SEASON 2, CHICAGO AUDITION
UNIQUE GIMMICK: The oldest contestant at 86, though he claimed to be 23
POST-AUDITION QUOTE: "Well, at least I didn't get gonged, so that's a positive."
SIMON SAYS: "Absolutely fantastic, which I mean in the most negative sense."
WHERE IS HE NOW?: Dead
VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED: Given the number of contestants, there weren't nearly enough bathrooms at this venue

Bernice Gravlax

SEASON 3, HOUSTON AUDITION

UNIQUE GIMMICK: Half-hour rant about how the CIA had both John Lennon and Tupac Shakur killed, all to the accompaniment of calliope music

ATTITUDE PROBLEM: Kept insisting her name is actually pronounced "Beyoncé"

SIGNATURE TUNE: She crooned a slow, soulful version of "99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall." But only the even-numbered verses

RANDY'S OPINION: "I'm sorry, I was on my cell phone. Could you do the whole thing again?"

WHERE ■ SHE NOW?: Somehow ended up on the Arizona Diamondbacks as a result of the Manny Ramirez trade, though the logistics are still unclear

VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED: If you're going to bribe a judge, don't do it when the cameras are rolling

Klaus Fleugenheuvel

SEASON 3, NEW YORK AUDITION

UNIQUE GIMMICK: Considered himself an honorary Village Person — which sort of explained the forest ranger outfit, though not the rubber Elephant Man mask

BIG DISAPPOINTMENT: Didn't get the expected sympathy vote from his recent tracheotomy

PAULA'S OPINION: "If you think I'm sleeping with you, you're crazy."

POST-AUDITION QUOTE: "I liked Ed McMahon on *Star Search* a ■ better than you jerks."

VALUABLE LESSON LEARNED: Having all your friends call up and vote for you doesn't work unless you make it onto the show itself

Leila-Lee Lee

SEASON 5, DENVER AUDITION

SHOW PREP: Lacing the drinks of competitors with crushed sleeping pills in the green room

SIGNATURE TUNE: "The 12 Days of Christmas," the lines of which she kept forgetting, adding things like "8 yaks a-feeding" and "11 guys with lupus."

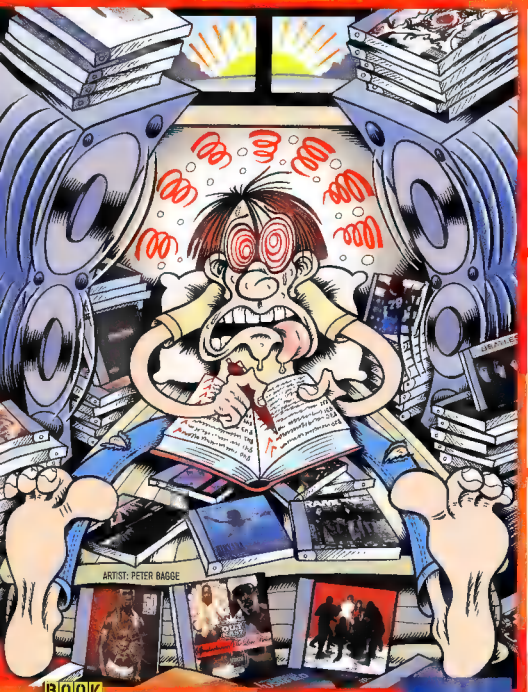
POST-AUDITION QUOTE: "I'm glad I took this risk. The worst that can happen is that my dreams are crushed and my life completely ruined."

SIMON'S COMMENT: "If we wanted ■ hear a middle-aged, shrieking bimbo, then Paula would ■ a contestant and not a judge."

WHERE IS SHE NOW?: Singing at Guantanamo Bay, which the U.S. military hopes will get detainees ■ talk, or she'll just keep ■ singing

GO FETCH!

THE LATEST STUFF YOU MAY (OR MAY NOT) WANT TO CHASE DOWN!



GADGET

THE FLY PENTOP COMPUTER

LeapFrog Enterprises, Inc.

The Hype: The FLY pentop computer gives users real-time audio feedback as they write and draw on special FLY paper, making what they write "work" interactively. Draw a calculator, touch the handwritten digits and functions to perform an operation, and then hear the answer announced from the device. Draw a piano keyboard and hear the notes being played, or write a word in English and hear it translated into Spanish (cartridge sold separately).

The Snipe: *Great, now every seventh grader who got one of these for Christmas is going to be spending study hall trying to translate "boob" into Spanish.*

DVD

TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE

Warner Home Video • January 31

The Hype: Set in a 19th century European village, this stop-motion, animated feature follows the story of a young man who is whisked away to the underworld and wed to a mysterious Corpse Bride, while his real bride waits bereft in the land of the living.

The Snipe: *The Hollywood rumor mill is rife with speculation that this film is based on the sordid Tom Cruise-Katie Holmes romance.*

MUSIC

THE GREATEST CAT POWER

Matador Records • January

The Hype: On her newest release, notoriously shy chanteuse Cat Power (aka Chan Marshall) collaborates with a gang of veteran Memphis session musicians to create a mellow blend of country, jazz and soul.

The Snipe: *We have some suggestions for the name of her next album: 1)* The Greater-est *2)* No wait...THIS is the Greatest *3)* This Album is So Great, It Will Make *Smells Like Teen Spirit* Sound Like Dog Feces in a Blender.

BOOK

1001 ALBUMS YOU MUST HEAR BEFORE YOU DIE

Rizzoli Publications • $34.95 • 960 pages • February

The Hype: Here is the list of the most important and highly influential pop albums from 1955 to the present. Included are production details and credits as well as reproductions of original cover art.

The Snipe: *Or you could just wait for the podcast version so you can listen to a book about listening to music — are we freaking you out yet?*

ON SALE NOW!

MAD KIDS #1

And coming on February 21,

MAD KIDS #2!

Featuring:

Game On!

Alfred's Brain Drool!

An Exclusive Interview with American Idol Winner Carrie Underwood!

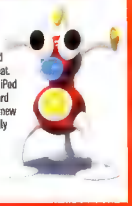
Plus Tons More Stupidity!

GADGET

Zizzle

The Hype: iZ is the ultimate fusion of music and toy! iZ's eyes bounce, and nose pulses in rainbow colors to the beat. Plays music from CD player, PC, MP3, iPod or any music device that uses a standard headset cable. Twist his ears to create new rhythms and lead tracks; press his belly to change the beat.

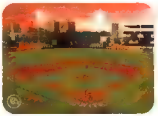
The Snipe: *Twist his ears? Press his belly? What happens if you just kick him in the 'nads?*



GAME

MVP 06 NCAA BASEBALL

PS2, Xbox • Electronic Arts



The Hype: *MVP 06 NCAA Baseball* features an exclusive NCAA Baseball license with 128 universities, the top conferences, plus 19 authentic ballparks including Rosenblatt Stadium, home of the NCAA College World Series in Omaha. The game also features a live ESPN ticker, as well as news from ESPN.com and updates from ESPN Radio Sportscenter.

The Snipe: *So it's come to this: you're playing a game where the goal is to get to Omaha.*

DVD

THE ARISTOCRATS

Thinkfilm Company Inc. • January 24

The Hype: More than 100 comedians reminisce, analyze, deconstruct and deliver their own versions of the world's dirtiest joke, an old burlesque routine too extreme to be performed in public, called "The Aristocrats."

The Snipe: *Thanks to the overwhelming success of this documentary, we can probably expect Disney to do kid-friendly ripoffs about "knock-knock" jokes and the riddle "What's black and white and red all over?"*

BOOK

DRAWING ACTION MANGA
KEITH SPARROW

Collins/Design • $19.95 • 96 pages • February

The Hype: Learn how to create the dynamic characters and sequences of Japanese comics. It gives you a list of needed materials, explains various techniques and offers 10 individual projects to practice with.

The Snipe: *Given how every pimply-faced kid with a pencil and piece of paper wants to learn how to draw manga, we hope there's a chapter teaching them after mastering it how they can live on $300 a year income!*

MUSIC

VOICES MATCHBOOK ROMANCE

February 14 • Epitaph Records

The Hype: After touring locally and pushing their music over the internet, the Poughkeepsie-based punk band got the attention of Epitaph records, who are releasing their second full-length album.

The Snipe: *We anxiously anticipate their latest offering — any band that's managed to dominate the punk scene in Poughkeepsie has got to be good!*

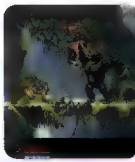
GAME

KING KONG: THE OFFICIAL MOBILE GAME OF THE MOVIE

Gameloft • Mobile

The Hype: From the dense jungles of Skull Island to the magnificent skyscrapers of Manhattan, the adventure begins here. Incorporating the main characters from the film, the game takes you on a whirlwind adventure where Jack and Kong risk everything to protect Ann. Groundbreaking dual gameplay allows you to step into the role of Kong or Jack, filling both action and adventure needs.

The Snipe: *Yeesh. They sure say "adventure" a lot. Maybe they should have built a groundbreaking thesaurus into this thing.*



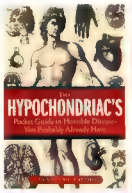
BOOK

THE HYPOCHONDRIAC'S POCKET GUIDE TO HORRIBLE DISEASES YOU PROBABLY ALREADY HAVE
DENNIS DICLAUDIO

Bloomsbury • $14.95 • 286 pages • February

The Hype: Profiling many of the most disgusting, painful, life-threatening diseases like Ascariasis, Cancrum Oris, Schistosomiasis and Bejel that may be living in our bodies, this book will force everyone to become obsessive hand washers.

The Snipe: *Sounds like the author has TiVo'd one too many episodes of* House!



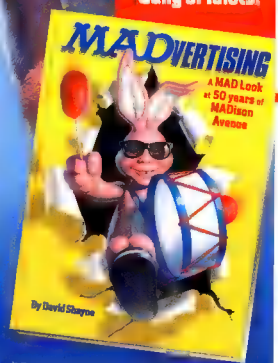
OVER 50 YEARS OF MAD's BEST AD SPOOFS — ALL IN ONE BOOK!

224 pages!

Hundreds of parodies!

Full Color Sections!

Interviews with the Usual Gang of Idiots!



You've read the ad about the book!

Now read the book about the ads!

ON SALE NOW!

GAME

ARENA FOOTBALL

PS2, Xbox • Electronic Arts

The Hype: Experience the intensity and passion of the indoor gridiron for the first time with *EA SPORTS Arena Football*. Build an AFL powerhouse and challenge the best players in the nation with head-to-head online play or take it to the promised land in "Season" mode.

The Snipe: *"Take it to the promised land"? We want to be Bill Parcells, not frickin' Moses!*

BOOK

THE BASEBALL GEEK'S BIBLE

DOUGLAS B. LYONS

MQ Publications • $14.95 • 160 pages • February

The Hype: This book pays tribute to the most memorable, awe-inspiring and surprising moments in the history of baseball. From the first World Series in 1903 and Roger Maris' 61st record-breaking home run to the Sosa/McGwire slugfest, you'll find all the key moments in the history of baseball covered!

The Snipe: *We sure hope that Babe Ruth's boozing, Ty Cobb's blatant racism, Palmeiro's steroid abuse and the fact that Ted Williams' head is on ice are included as "key moments" in the history of the great American pastime!*

GAME

SPLAT MAGAZINE RENEGADE PAINTBALL

PC, Xbox • Global Star Software, Inc.

The Hype: Prepare for the ultimate *SPLAT* fest with adrenaline pumping Tournament, Fieldball and Arcade modes. From bunker-filled inside arenas to getting gogged in the great outdoors, it's time to break out in the most intense paintball experience yet.

The Snipe: *Sadly, "getting gogged in the great outdoors" is not a euphemism for what you've been hoping to do with that girl who sits behind you in third period algebra. It means getting hit in the goggles. Which is probably what that girl would do to you if she knew what you were thinking.*

DVD

WEDDING CRASHERS

Warner Home Video • January 3

The Hype: In this romantic comedy, Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson have perfected the art of wedding crashing. But when one of them actually falls in love, their sacred rule, "never leave a fellow crasher behind," may be broken.

The Snipe: *You know what would really be funny? If Vince Vaughn and his new gal-pal Jennifer Aniston crashed the Brangelina wedding at George Clooney's Italian villa.*

MUSIC

THE LIFE PURSUIT

BELLE AND SEBASTIAN

Matador Records • February 7

The Hype: Recorded in California, the soft-spoken Scottish band's newest release provides even sunnier mood and a shift back to the band's stripped-down sound.

The Snipe: *We're hoping they start a feud with fellow Glasgow natives, Franz Ferdinand — if only because it would result in some very sensitive, very literate diss tracks.*

GAME

FINAL FIGHT: STREETWISE

PS2, Xbox • Capcom

The Hype: Play as Kyle Travers, a streetwise underground pit fighter and brother of the infamous Cody from the classic *Final Fight* series. A seedy organization has kidnapped Cody, and you must try to solve his disappearance. Damage enemies at close range with hand-to-hand combat and finish them off with weapons, including pool cues, 2x4's, steel pipes, knives, grenades, shotguns and machine guns.

The Snipe: *So, Cody's gone missing, eh? Have you tried any of those secret prisons the CIA's running in Eastern Europe?*

THE MUST-HAVE!

VOLUSON 730 ULTRASOUND

GE HEALTHCARE

The Hype: With Voluson 730, you can now acquire and construct volumetric images in real time — up to 40 volumes per second. Volume Ultrasound not only improves your 3D/4D capabilities, it enhances your 2D imaging as well, for even greater diagnostic confidence in your obstetrical, gynecologic, breast and general imaging studies.

The Snipe: *Remember those X-Ray specs they used to sell in the back of comic books? Same thing.*

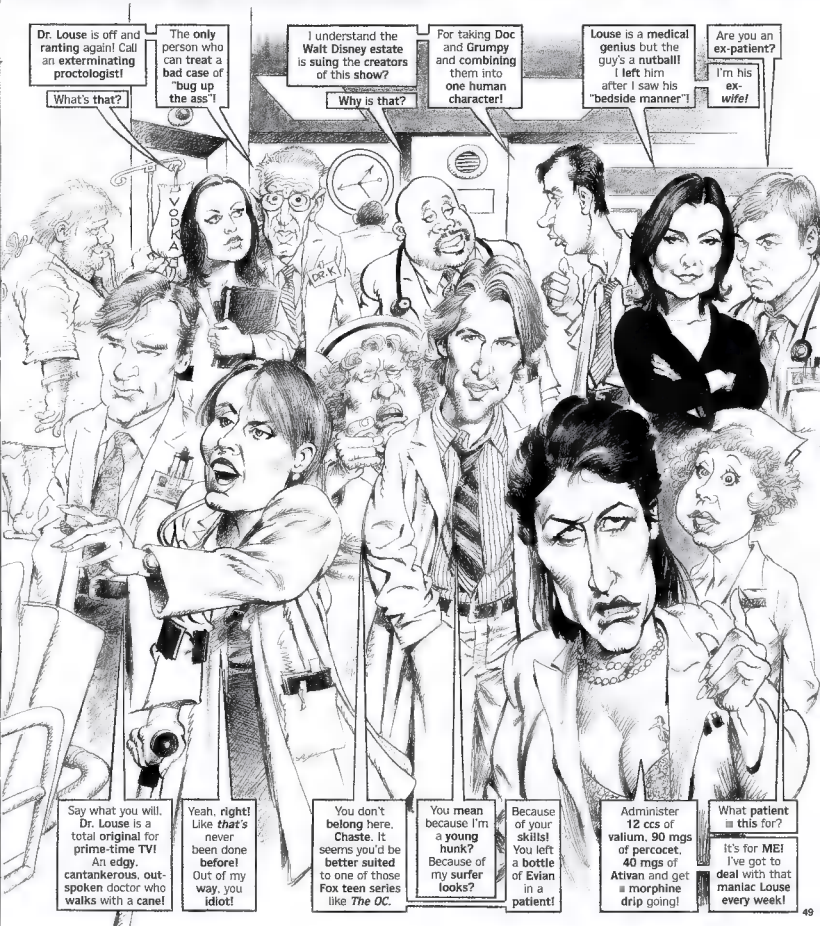
HUGH DIRTY RAT DEPT.

The Fox network seems to be successful with two types of shows. One is teen-oriented series like *The OC* and *That '70's Show*. The other is shows featuring bitter middle-aged men. Simon Cowell on *American Idol* is one of them and this guy, who makes Simon look like the Pillsbury Doughboy, is another. He stars in a new medical mystery. He's angry, he's brooding, he's unshaven, meet...

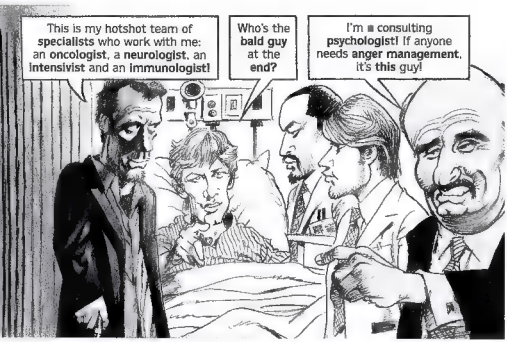
L
You have a malignant, grade 4 liver cancer. Hepatitis B, and your lung has just collapsed! Besides that: you are fat, you have an obnoxious lifestyle, your SUV guzzles gas, and when you do have the strength to speak, you are boring! Frankly we don't need an anesthesiologist on staff, because you put all the other patients to sleep!
Now, if you'll excuse me. I have some injured nuns to insult and twin dying orphans to hit with some acidic put-downs!
Is he ALWAYS that way?
Not really. Today he's being warm and cuddly!
DR. HIBBERT
EXIT
EXIT
101
PATIENT- SICK
DOCTOR- G. LOUISE
I'd like another opinion!
You want another doctor?
No. I want another TV medical show! Wheel me to Scrubs!
ARTIST: MORT DRUCKER
WRITER: ARNIE KOGEN
DRUCKER

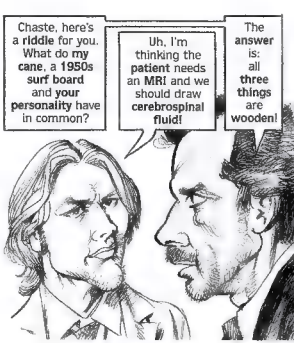
OUSE

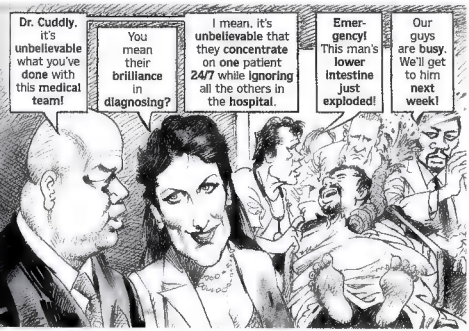
S.O.B.

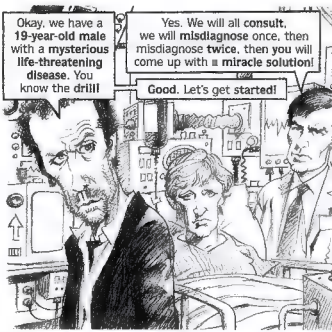

Dr. Louse is off and ranting again! Call an exterminating proctologist!
What's that?
The only person who can treat a bad case of "bug up the ass"!
VODKA
I understand the Walt Disney estate is suing the creators of this show?
Why is that?
For taking Doc and Grumpy and combining them into one human character!
Louse is a medical genius but the guy's a nutball! I left him after I saw his "bedside manner"!
Are you an ex-patient?
I'm his ex-wife!
Say what you will. Dr. Louse is a total original for prime-time TV! An edgy, cantankerous, outspoken doctor who walks with a cane!
Yeah, right! Like that's never been done before! Out of my way, you idiot!
You don't belong here, Chaste. It seems you'd be better suited to one of those Fox teen series like The OC.
You mean because I'm a young hunk? Because of my surfer looks?
Because of your skills! You left a bottle of Evian in a patient!
Administer 12 ccs of valium, 90 mgs of percocet, 40 mgs of Ativan and get morphine drip going!
What patient this for?
It's for ME! I've got to deal with that maniac Louse every week!

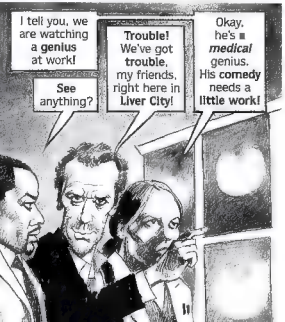
I've been unconscious! Where am I?
Remember Chicago Hope?
Yes!
Well, you're 180 degrees away! Welcome to New Jersey Sarcastic!
127 - 504
PRINCETON-PASSAIC HOSPITAL
It's my son, Tyler. He's got a mysterious disease!
You've come to the right place!
He needs brilliant diagnosticians!
You've got it!
He needs tender, compassionate care!
Turn the wheel-chair around now!
I'm Dr. Gregory Louse. You have a mysterious infectious disease!
Will you be treating me?
Not immediately. It works in stages!
What stages?
I'll be insulting you first. Then I'll be treating you!
I'M GOING HOME TOMORROW
Ever eaten a raw scallop? Ever touched a falcon? Ever exchanged bodily fluids with a Latvian? Ever kissed a toilet seat in Honduras? Ever pick your feet in Poughkeepsie?
Are these questions relating to my disease?
No. We're trying to grab the "freaky" 18-49-year-old TV audience!
Tell me — will I survive, Doctor?
I promise you this: you will live to see another day in New Jersey!
Hey, that's great!
If you call that living! I call it hell! Personally, I'd pull the plug!
CHECK OUT 12 NOON $500 PER DAY
WEEK-ENDS $700
So... what's Louse's story?
Let me put it this way. Ever wonder what it would be like if Triumph the Insult Comic Dog went to medical school? Well, wonder no more!
BLOOD
OIL


This is my hotshot team of **specialists** who work with me: an **oncologist**, a **neurologist**, an **intensivist** and an **immunologist**!
Who's the **bald guy** at the **end?**
I'm ■ consulting **psychologist!** If anyone needs **anger management**, it's **this** guy!


Chaste, here's a **riddle** for you. What do **my cane**, a **1950s surf board** and **your personality** have in common?
Uh, I'm thinking the **patient** needs an **MRI** and we should draw **cerebrospinal fluid!**
The **answer** is: all **three things** are **wooden!**


Dr. Cuddy, it's **unbelievable** what you've **done** with this **medical team!**
You mean their **brilliance** in **diagnosing?**
I mean, it's **unbelievable** that they **concentrate** on **one** patient **24/7** while **ignoring** all the others in the **hospital.**
Emergency! This man's **lower intestine just exploded!**
Our guys are **busy.** We'll get to him **next week!**


Okay, we have a **19-year-old male** with a **mysterious life-threatening disease.** You know the **drill!**
Yes. We will all **consult**, we will **misdiagnose** once, then misdiagnose **twice**, then **you** will come up with ■ **miracle solution!**
Good. Let's get **started!**


I tell you, we are watching a **genius** at work!
See anything?
Trouble! We've got **trouble**, my friends, right here in **Liver City!**
Okay, he's ■ ***medical*** genius. His **comedy** needs a **little work!**

His **right leg** is **twitching**, and his **epinephrine** was mildly **elevated.**
It could be **encephalitis.**
I'm betting **West Nile.**
Well, I'm leaning towards **lymphocytic pleocytosis.**
Hand me that ***New England Journal of Medicine!***
You're going to **consult** ■ **medical journal?**
Nope! I'm going to **take** ■ ***dump!*** And we've **run out of toilet paper!**

Yuck! Not another show that takes us on an icky voyage inside a human body cavity!
What is this, like the 82nd TV series to do this!?
Great! A graphic trip through a guy's brain matter! Just what I needed after the meat-loaf lunch at the hospital cafeteria!
This show is like a detective drama! We analyze clues, we sift through evidence and we break into people's homes!
My God! We've become CSI-New Jersey!
YOUR AD HERE
CEREBRUM
SELF-LOATHING THOUGHT
WERNICKE'S AREA
LUST
HEARING
SPEECH
LOVE
SHAME
GREED
SMELL
LUST
SIGHT
GUILT
LILY PONS
MEDULLA OBLONGATA
LUST
BRAIN
Oh great, if my day wasn't going badly enough, now my beloved ex-wife shows up! What do you want?
I was going to ask you to treat my husband, but now, forget it! I hate you! You're the meanest, most egotistical bastard in the world! I should have known you were like this! During our wedding vows, I talked about love and feelings, you insulted the minister and told the bridesmaid she had chlamydia!
Louse, have you ever thought about a romantic involvement?
Not really. The only women I meet are infected!
Would you be interested in me?
Put on your sexiest outfit, catch a pox and we'll talk!
We've cured you! You had a rare viral infection passed on by pigeons in Peru. You can go home!
This is so abrupt!
Welcome to a thing called "strange story arc"!
We finally have a new patient being admitted that Louse can't be nasty to!
This I gotta see!
And even though it's a flesh wound...
...this was the closest hospital to my New Jersey home! Now here's the deal — I have a lot of friends who require medical attention! I can throw a lot a business your way, but if you screw up, I break your other leg! Are we clear, stubble face?
Yes, sir! Right away, sir!

WHAT WAS PRESIDENT BUSH MOST UPSET TO SEE DESTROYED BY HURRICANE KATRINA?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS

MAD FOLD-IN

There was no shortage of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. And despite an initially apathetic response, there was one thing that the President was clearly upset to see demolished by the storm's wrath. To find out what this ruined thing is, fold page in as shown.

FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"

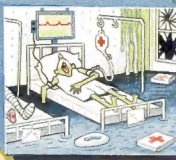
HIT BY RECORD FLOODS, ALL OF NEW ORLEANS APPROACHES COMPLETE RUIN. AN ATTEMPT AT REVIVAL REQUIRES ENGINEERS CAPABLE OF REHABILITATING AND BUILDING INDESTRUCTIBLE LEVEES

A ARTIST AND WRITER: AL JAFFEE B

WHAT WAS PRESIDENT BUSH MOST UPSET TO SEE DESTROYED BY HURRICANE KATRINA?

FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"



HIS APPROVAL RATING

A B

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